generation in Bihar from its own thermal stations by way of supply of proper quality and quantity of coal, Renovation and Modernization and life extension of old units, reduction in T&D losses, energy conservation etc. Besides, new capacity addition of 135 MW at Bihta has been planned in private sector in Bihar during the 10th Plan. In addition, Bihar will have entitlements from Central Sector and Mega Projects of Eastern Region and from Tala HEP (1020 MW) in Bhutan.

Setting up National Power Grid

851. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going ahead with its reform strategy to set up a National Power Grid at a cost of Rs. 44,000 crore to 50,000 crore;

(b) whether the private sector will be investing in the development of this grid, however, control will continue to be with Government; and

(c) if so, the details of this plan and the role of the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government is working on a plan to develop a National Power Grid connecting all the five regional grids with a strong transmission network. The various transmission components of the National Power Grid are targeted to be realized in a phased manner, by the end of 11th Plan period. The total investment required for the Central transmission system in the next 10 years is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 77,000 crore, of which about Rs. 47,000 crore would be required for the projects involving inter-regional transmission system and Rs. 30,000 crore for regional transmission schemes for power evacuation and system strengthening.

The Electricity Laws were amended in 1998 to enable implementation of transmission projects by Central/State Power Transmission utilities and also by private transmission companies either on joint venture basis in association with Central/State Transmission Utility or independently as Independent Power Transmission Companies (IPTC) by obtaining transmission license from Central/State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (CERC/SERC) depending on whether the transmission line/

associated sub stations are inter-State or intra State. Of the total investment of Rs. 77,000 crore for development of National Power Grid, about Rs. 23,000 crore is proposed to be mobilized through private sector participation by formation of joint ventures (JVs) with private entities and also through Independent Power Transmission Companies (IPTCs) which are proposed to be selected through International Competitive Bidding. The amended laws provide that a transmission license granted by CERC/ SERC may authorize the licensee to construct, maintain and operate any inter-State transmission system or intra-State transmission system under the direction, control and supervision of the Central or State Transmission Utility, respectively. At present, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has been notified by the Government of India as the Central Transmission Utility. The Central/State Transmission Utility shall exercise supervision and control over the inter-State and intra-State transmission systems, respectively.

Sanction estimate for Chamurkha transformer under Galibaha Power Station, Sultanpur

852. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an estimate was sanctioned for Chamurkha transformer under Galibaha Power Station in Sultanpur district of U.P. in May, 2002 but same has since been put on held under pressure of local officials of station;

(b) the details of sanctioned estimate along with the reasons for putting it in abeyance; and

(c) whether Government would instruct the authorities to implement the sanctioned order and to transfer the local officials of station to reduce their influence in larger interest of smooth functioning of the station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The matter pertains to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. The information is being collected from them and will be laid on the Table of the House.